

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Neosho Box and Wood Products Company

Missouri Enterprise

Neosho Box and Wood Products Company Committed to Continuous Improvement

Client Profile:

Neosho Box and Wood Products is a pallet and industrial crating manufacturer located in Neosho, Missouri. All of the company's pallets and crating solutions are custom designed to insure an exact fit for each customer's specific product and material handling requirements. The company uses a Pallet Design System developed by Virginia Tech University and approved by the National Wood Pallet and Container Association. For more than 36 years, Neosho Box and Wood Products Company has been supplying southwest Missouri manufacturers with high quality and cost effective packing and shipping products. Typical Neosho Box and Wood Products customers are companies in a variety of industrial and consumer product sectors. The company currently employs 15 people.

Situation:

Neosho Box and Wood Products has prospered by keeping current on the state-of-the-art industry best practices and by being consistent in its commitment to continuous improvement in product quality and customer service. Their constant search for the 'better way to do things' and incremental reductions in waste and variation, led the company's management to Missouri Enterprise's, a NIST MEP network affiliate, Profit Strategies for the Wood Product Industry, a program created in cooperation and under a grant from the U.S. Forest Service to support wood products companies.

Solution:

Missouri Enterprise's Profit Strategies for the Wood Industry project began with a planning session to determine the company's current status, select participants and develop an event schedule that could be accomplished with out disrupting the company's service to its customers. Following the planning session, Missouri Enterprise performed a Clean and Green Assessment to identify potential areas for savings in the company's energy consumption and waste streams. Next, Missouri Enterprise provided a Lean Executive Overview and an Introduction to Lean Enterprise simulation to help employees understand how the Lean tools can be used to identify and reduce waste in operational processes. The simulation used in this Introduction to Lean was one that was specifically developed at Virginia Tech University for wood products companies. Next, Missouri Enterprise helped the company's Lean team to develop current and future state Value Stream Maps (VSM) to identify opportunities for improvement and cost savings. Finally, the company undertook a 6S (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain, Safety) workplace organizational Kaizen event to create a systematic, sustainable approach to workplace organization and safety that eliminates issues that hinder production.

Results:

* Retained sales of \$80,000.

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* Realized \$54,000 in cost savings.

Testimonial:

"Missouri Enterprise demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the tools and techniques that they were presenting and they understood how they apply to a wood products company like ours."

Jeff Werneke, Manager